

ceasefire that has been consistently ignored by both sides of the conflict. But the African Union does not have the resources, training or mandate to provide real protection for the people of Darfur. The African Union needs support from the international community, and H.R. 3127 is the first step in this process. This legislation directs the President to instruct the U.S. representative to NATO to advocate for NATO reinforcement of AMIS and to urge the Security Council to adopt a resolution supporting the expansion of AMIS.

Today I offer my support for the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, and I hope that Congress, the Bush Administration and the International Community can work together to put an end to crisis in Darfur.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, and urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on this important piece of legislation. I commend Chairman HYDE and my fellow New Jerseyans, African Subcommittee Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Ranking Member DONALD PAYNE for bringing this bill to the floor and helping keep our focus on the terrible crisis in Darfur and humanitarian needs in Sudan.

Three years ago, the people of Sudan began a bloody civil war, with two rebel groups in the South rising up against the government in Khartoum. The response from the Sudanese government was swift and brutal, and its aerial bombardment and support of the criminal militia known as the Janjaweed continues today throughout the country. But what has been done in the Southern region of Darfur is beyond anything we have seen in many years.

Mr. Speaker, it was not lightly that Congress declared the situation in Darfur a genocide on July 22, 2004. The government and its Janjaweed allies have killed hundreds of thousands of its non-Arab citizens in the region, and this genocide continues unabated today. More than two million civilians have been displaced from their homes, over 100,000 fleeing to neighboring Chad, and these refugees live in the most difficult situations, still surrounded by Janjaweed abusers and fearful for their safety. Rape has been widespread, and as the Janjaweed move across the region they leave a path of destruction that makes living nearly impossible for the few survivors left behind.

The military of the African Union, now 7,000 strong in Sudan, is doing valiant work but has never received adequate support. The recent discussions with NATO and the United Nations to bring additional forces and military material to the peacekeeping and stabilization mission are promising, but are not enough. The bill under consideration today would authorize much needed assistance to the African Union Mission in Sudan, and direct the President to support the expansion of this force to strengthen their work to bring peace to the region.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, which lends significant support to ongoing efforts to end the crisis in Darfur. The bill supports the use of sanctions on the government of Sudan to pressure it to end its support for the Janjaweed and return to the negotiating table. Only through strong U.S. involvement will there be an end to the violence in Darfur, and this bill provides the backing the administration needs to take further action.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that the American people are in firm support of the

U.S. taking action on Darfur, and are strongly moved by this tragedy, which some have likened to the Holocaust. In my own district, a wide range of faith communities have joined together in the South Jersey Interfaith Coalition to Save Darfur. I am proud to be an honorary co-chair of this group which brings together people from southern New Jersey to take action on this issue. I am also proud of the students of Voorhees Middle School, who, with the help of their teacher Joyce Laurella, organized "Project: Save Darfur," which has raised awareness of the crisis as well as money for UNICEF activities in Sudan. Individual action can make a difference, and the U.S. government should join its citizens in mobilizing on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, time is of the essence in this matter, which grows more dire every day. We cannot stand idly by, as we did in the face of the genocide in Rwanda and in the early stages of the Nazi holocaust, and then report sadly from the gravesites of those who died. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote yes on the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, and support these steps to end the genocide.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in strongly supporting H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006. As a co-sponsor of this measure since July 2005, I am extremely pleased this measure is finally being considered by the full House.

I traveled to Sudan in 1989. I did not know much about the Horn of Africa at the time. But I knew this: 280,000 people starved to death the year before and it was not because there was not enough food. There was a tremendous outpouring of support from people all over the world, and I am proud to say that it came primarily from the United States of America. But that food did not get through to the innocent civilian populations because of this civil war.

I went to Sudan with the late Mickey Leland and the late Bill Emerson and my colleague GARY ACKERMAN. I watched in awe as Mickey Leland negotiated with tyrant Sadiq al-Mahdi and with the leader of the SPLA John Garang, and even that unsavory character next door President Mengistu of Ethiopia to create "corridors for peace." He was successful that year. And in the following year, deaths due to starvation dropped dramatically.

But in the time since then, we have focused our attention elsewhere. We have looked away from this tragedy, and the situation today continues to deteriorate.

Over 2 million people have already died over the past two decades due to war-related causes and famine in Sudan and millions more are internally displaced—more than any other nation on the face of the Earth. And we continue to look the other way.

As we approach the 91st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we must also recognize that what has been happening in the Darfur region of Sudan is also genocide. On July 22, 2004, the House of Representatives declared that the atrocities occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan are genocide. This bill, H.R. 3127, also includes this declaration.

We need to get our priorities straight. Let's stop this war and end this human suffering. We can start by passing and implementing the provisions of this important measure, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am offering my support for H.R. 3127,

the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This bill would be an important step in ending the crisis that continues to plague the Darfur region of Sudan.

Since civil unrest erupted in Sudan in February 2003, roughly 400,000 people have died and an astounding 2.5 million have become displaced as a result of policies by the government of Sudan and attacks by government troops and government-backed militias. The human inhabitants of that beautiful land suffer daily from unimaginable torments including rape, hunger, looting, and indiscriminate killing.

The U.S. government has officially acknowledged that what is happening in Darfur is genocide. Now, it is imperative that the U.S. and the global community act in defense of those in Sudan who are suffering at the hands of their government. If we do not do all that we can to bring stability to this humanitarian crisis, then we are essentially participating in the problem.

H.R. 3127 aims to end this deplorable violence through a variety of means including increasing asset and travel sanctions, urging the expansion and a stronger mandate for the African Union Mission, AMIS, bringing perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Darfur to justice through the International Criminal Court, and urging the President to apply additional methods of diplomatic pressure.

As a member of the Congressional Sudan Caucus, I have had the opportunity to express my commitment to developing a solution that will put an end to this continuing genocide. Furthermore, I intend to do what I can in my capacity as a Member of Congress to demonstrate this august body's dedication to supporting human rights around the world. I am optimistic that, by working with advocates and the international community, peace will return to Sudan.

I support the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. I also urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important legislation.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This legislation is a much needed step towards ending the unprecedented tragedy taking place in Sudan, and its consideration today is long overdue.

Over the past 3 years, the world has watched as the situation in Darfur has escalated into an unprecedented humanitarian and human rights crisis. Since February 2003, civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of Sudan have been subject to indiscriminate killings, abductions, torture and rape at the hands of the Janjaweed—a lawless militia that has the alleged support of the Sudanese government. It is clear that the government of Sudan has offered their tacit approval for these attacks, and in many instances has engaged in air and ground strikes to augment the Janjaweed assaults on the people of Darfur.

The scope of this ongoing tragedy is hard to imagine. The numbers, unfortunately, speak for themselves. An estimated 3.5 million people are starving and some 2 million have been displaced from their homes, including hundreds of thousands who have fled to Chad for refuge. When then Secretary of State Colin Powell called the crisis in Darfur "genocide" in September 2004, an estimated 50,000 people had been killed. That number may now reach

as high as 400,000 today, with 180,000 of these deaths occurring in the past 18 months alone according to the United Nations. These numbers continue to grow everyday; however we may never fully appreciate the enormous human toll these atrocities have taken on Sudan, the continent of Africa, and the world.

The atrocities taking place are nothing less than a human tragedy, a world wide cause that we cannot ignore—and yet the international community remains essentially paralyzed and unable to stop it. To date, there have been 8 rounds of peace talks, the deployment of 6,000 African Union troops, 6 U.N. Security Council resolutions and declarations of genocide by the administration and this Congress. Despite this pressure, the Sudanese government has steadfastly refused to take any constructive steps towards ending this humanitarian crisis.

As the leader of the free world and a role model for human rights and democracy, we must live up to our own example. To this end, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act takes several important steps toward increasing pressure on the government of Sudan to end the current crisis. Among its many provisions, this legislation strengthens sanctions on individuals and governments responsible for, or connected to, the atrocities in Darfur. It also provides strong support for the expansion of humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts in the region, and calls for the suspension of Sudan's membership in the United Nations. While this legislation alone will not end the atrocities in Darfur, it will send a strong message to Sudan and the world community that the U.S. is serious about bringing an end to the violence.

Many grassroots groups around the country, such as the Connecticut Coalition to Save Darfur, have been working to educate policymakers and the public on the urgent need for action in this troubled region of the world. Their efforts have ensured that the crisis in Darfur stays in the public mind and today's consideration of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act is a testament to their tireless work. I am proud to support this legislation, and strongly urge its quick approval in conference so that we can get this important bill to the President's desk without delay.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3128, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006.

Three years ago, the United Nations Security Council declared its grave concern at the widespread human rights violations in Darfur and expressed its determination to do everything possible to halt a humanitarian catastrophe. Since then, at least 300,000 people are estimated to have died in Darfur. Currently, more than 3.5 million Darfurians depend on international aid for survival and another 2 million have been driven from their homes.

In 2004, pressure from Congress and American citizens prompted the Bush administration to become the first government to recognize the mass killing in Darfur as a genocide. Since then, the U.S. has played an important role by pressing for an international response to the crisis in Darfur at the U.N. supporting the deployment and expansion of the African Union Mission In Sudan (AMIS), and providing critical humanitarian aid. Unfortunately, the U.S. and the international community have yet to muster the will or cooperative action nec-

essary to adequately protect civilians, end the killing, and broker lasting peace.

Last week the U.N. Security Council issued a resolution reaffirming that the situation in the Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security. In Darfur large scale attacks on villages have been replaced by rampant banditry, a campaign of sexual violence, and the practical entrapment of civilians in camps. Government backed militias have not been reined in and rebel groups are contributing to violence on the ground. Civilians continue to be attacked, women and girls raped, humanitarian workers harassed, and critical aid supplies disrupted. For people of Darfur, the situation remains one of daily violence and insecurity, desperate living conditions, and the persistent threat of hunger and disease.

Sixty years ago, in the wake of the Holocaust, the international community vowed, "Never again." Ten years ago, confronted with the death toll of the Rwandan genocide, leaders of the same nations again declared, "Never again." Today, tens of thousands of women, men, and children have been murdered and hundreds of thousands continue to suffer in Darfur. The Darfur Peace and Accountability Act reminds the administration and the international community that the genocide in Darfur demands urgent attention and action, and calls upon the President to use both economic and political leverage to elicit cooperation from the Sudanese government.

Passing the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act is a small, but important demonstration of this nation's commitment to human rights. I hope that passage of this important legislation will spur more concerted national and international efforts to bring security and stability to the people of Darfur.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006.

Since February 2003, the Sudanese government—through its proxy, the Janjaweed Arab militia—has carried out a campaign to loot and burn African villages in the Darfur region of western Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, and over 2 million people have been displaced. This systematic pattern of attacks against civilians includes arbitrary killings, abductions, looting, torture, and rape, and such attacks are supported by air and land strikes by Sudanese government forces. Congress declared in the summer of 2004 that genocide was occurring in Darfur, and the administration followed suit in the fall of 2004.

This bill strengthens the Sudan Peace Act of 2004 by expanding sanctions, authorizing funding for humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts, and by taking additional steps to bring international attention to this conflict.

First, this bill specifically targets individuals in the government as opposed to punishing the coalition government as a whole. It holds Sudanese government officials and Janjaweed officers accountable for genocidal acts. The bill also targets oil revenues of the Sudanese government by denying access to U.S. ports to any ships involved in the Sudanese arms or oil industries. It is important that we force those responsible for the violence to account for their actions and that we prevent the Sudanese government from continuing to profit while thousands are being killed.

Second, the bill increases humanitarian aid to southern Sudan and other marginalized

areas, which are currently under the control of the Sudanese government and thus sanctioned. With this provision, our aid will more efficiently reach those in need, even if they live under the coalition government. In this way, we can hope to protect those who have lost their homes and their livelihoods to the violence of the region.

Third, the bill reinforces the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in order to protect civilians and carry out humanitarian operations. Currently, the African Union Mission in Sudan consists of only a few thousand troops, and AMIS will require a significant number of supplies and additional troops to effectively carry out its mission. The United Nations Security Council should also consider authorizing a separate, more robust peacekeeping force under U.N. auspices.

I was pleased that the House appropriated \$500 million last month in emergency assistance to southern Sudan and Darfur. I urge the House to adopt this legislation today, which takes important steps to stop the ongoing genocide in Darfur.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006. I wish to thank my good friends and colleagues on the House International Relations Committee, in particular Chairman HENRY HYDE and Ranking Member TOM LANTOS. I would also like to thank the honorable gentleman from New Jersey, Representative DONALD PAYNE, for his leadership on Darfur and peace in Sudan, as well as my Massachusetts colleague, and Co-Chair of the Sudan Caucus, Representative MICHAEL CAPUANO.

Mr. Speaker, the genocide in Darfur is an affront to the world, and a challenge to the moral and political leadership of the U.S., the European Union, the NATO Alliance, the African Union, and the international community and its representative body, the United Nations. To date, we have failed, individually and collectively, to rise and meet this challenge.

Every day, the carnage continues.

Every day, villages are destroyed.

Every day, women and girls are raped.

Every day, children are held in servitude.

Every day, the Sudanese government in Khartoum and its terrorist allies, the Janjaweed militias, sit fat and happy, secure in their knowledge that the world is all bark, and no bite—and they continue their pillage and their terror and their violent acts with impunity.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, attempts to hold the Government of Sudan, its leadership and its militia allies accountable for their acts and their crimes.

It is not enough, Mr. Speaker, but it takes important steps to strengthen current sanctions, increase the pressure on Khartoum, demand greater support for the African Union peacekeeping mission (AMIS), and require greater action by the international community, including the U.S., to put an end to the slaughter.